

ECSSA News

Edmonton Catholic Support Staff Association

January 2011



President's Message

Welcome back! Just six more months and another school year will end. As we proceed to that date your executive will be busy setting up the women's committee and gathering information from the membership for negotiations. Some lobbying is in the works with National. More information will be out once the action plan is put into place. This will be a huge campaign and I am sure some of you will want to volunteer your time.

Air your Laundry was a success and the information has been passed onto Sean McGuinness in Human Resource Services. Danny and I will revisit this issue at the January liaison meeting and report back to the membership. Please log onto the ECSSA webpage to read the report.

The General meeting was a success and thank you to all who braved the cold weather to participate. The members elected to the Women's Committee are Vicky Bastide, Janine Campbell, Petrina Chan, Denise St. Laurent and Carol Siwicki . Congratulations ladies! I look forward to working with this dynamic group.

In solidarity

Wilma Ellenburgh

Your success and happiness lies in you. Resolve to keep happy, and your joy and you shall form an invincible host against difficulties.

Helen Keller

CEP Scholarships

ECSSA CEP 52-A is very excited to offer these CEP scholarships to our members. Our members have been successful in securing scholarships in the past. Please complete the scholarship application and essay and send it to either Wilma Ellenburgh at Facility Services or Danny Burrell at St. Alphonsus for the necessary signature. We will then forward it to CEP on your behalf.

Deadline for submission to CEP is April 15, 2011.

More details are available on our website www.ecssa.ca. Look under "Professional Development Fund", then "CEP Scholarships".

Meeting Suggestions

One of the items from the floor was how we can all encourage our fellow members to attend our General Meetings. A few good suggestions came up and I thought it would be a great topic for a cookie contest.

Email your name, site, and your suggestion on how to get more of our members out to meetings to ecssa@shaw.ca. Individual entries only, must be a ECSSA member to be eligible. Winners will be picked by a random draw. Deadline for entries will be February 6th.

Caring Report

We extend our prayers and sympathies to **Kari Sale** of St. Alphonsus on the loss of her mother, **Chris Dulaba** of Catholic Education Services on the passing of her mother, **Linda Anderson** of Sister Annata Brockman on the loss of her father-in-law, **Roveena Prasad** of Financial Services on the passing of her grandfather, **Dawn Del Fabbro** of Archbishop O'Leary on the loss of her sister-in-law, **Maria McKay** of Bishop Savaryn on the loss of her father, **Cindy Stafford** of Bishop Savaryn on the passing of her grandmother, and **Jolene Almeida** of Bishop Savaryn on the loss of her father.

Brenda Eigear of Archbishop O'Leary, an active member, passed away. We extend our prayers and sympathies to her husband, Walter, and her daughter, Jennifer.

Flowers and wishes for a speedy recovery were sent to **Cheryl Andrews** of St. Benedict, **Vicki Robertson** of St. Elizabeth and **Anna Fiorillo** of Our Lady of Victories

Please remember to notify ECSSA if someone at your site has experienced a loss or is ill. The caring forms can be found on our website www.ecssa.ca and then click on the "Newsletter and Caring Forms" link. Please ensure that all information requested on the form is filled out. Thank you.

Social Justice Success

I would like to give a huge thank you to all ECSSA members who took part in our Christmas Social Justice Project. With your support we raised \$2850.00 to present to the Adopt-a-Teen Christmas Project.

At one of our schools, in lieu of buying each other gifts, the staff pooled the money they would have spent on a gift and held a lottery. The winning staff member had the opportunity to request their winnings be put towards their choice of charitable organization. An ECSSA member from that school won and had her winnings directed to the Adopt-A-Teen Project. Thank you Francesca Perri. As well I would like to give a shout out to ECSSA's Board of Directors and Executive for their personal contributions over the past few years to Adopt-A-Teen.

Please keep a look out for our upcoming Spring Shoebox Social Justice Project.

Thank you,

Your ECSSA Social Justice Committee

Injuries at Work

A reminder to make sure that you inform your administrator (your principal not the teacher) at your site if you are injured at work. In some cases a WCB form will need to be filled out.

A further reminder that WCB will only cover work related injuries and may not cover injuries sustained during "volunteer" activities such as Staff vs. Student games at lunch hour. Ski trips and other types of field trips can be covered if the activity is part of your "duties".

For further clarification on this issue please contact Sean McGuinness, Manager Employee Relations.

ECSSA Banquet

A quick reminder to circle **Thursday, May 5** on your calendar.

More information on this absolutely marvellous event will be coming in future newsletters.

Celebrate what you want to see more of.

[Tom Peters](#)

ECSSA Report

I must thank all that made the effort to show up for the General Meeting in January. It seems that we are always able to schedule the meeting on the day of a big snow. As reported in the Wilma's president message the meeting was a big success with the election of a Women's Committee and the sharing of many good ideas.

I would also like to thank the many members who contact the ECSSA office looking for advice or strategies for workplace problems. It is important that your ECSSA executive and Employer Liaison Officer know what is happening at the many different sites.

Your Board of Directors has continued to find time to offer the variety of different services ECSSA provides for you. Our Caring officer has sent out wishes to our bereaved and ill members. Books and other resources continue to be circulated, even with the move of our library to the Service Building. Professional Development fund requests are processed and we are present on the many District committees to ensure your voice is being heard.

Let our New Year's resolution be this: we will be there for one another as fellow members of humanity, in the finest sense of the word.

Goran Persson

Edmonton Catholic Support Staff Association

**P.O. Box 1323
Edmonton, AB
T5J 2N2**

Phone: 780 456 ECSS (3277)

E-Mail: ecssa@shaw.ca

Website: www.ecssa.ca

Support Staff

The glue that holds it all together!!